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Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the sixty-fourth session

Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration

Letter dated 5 November 2009 from the representatives of Azerbaijan, Benin, Colombia, Costa Rica, Haiti, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Philippines, Portugal, Slovenia, Timor-Leste and United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to request, pursuant to rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the Assembly of an additional item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum (annex I) in support of the above request and a related draft resolution (annex II) to be adopted at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly are attached to the present letter.

We should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Jean-Francis Régis **Zinsou**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Benin to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Claudia **Blum**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations

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(*Signed*) Jorge **Urbina**
Ambassador
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(*Signed*) Léo **Mérorès**
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(*Signed*) Nurbek **Jeenbaev**
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Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Claude **Heller**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Hilario G. **Davide**, Jr.
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Permanent Representative of the
Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations

(*Signed*) José Filipe Moraes **Cabral**
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Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Sanja **Štiglic**
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Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Nelson **Santos**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Augustine P. **Mahiga**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations

Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

1. The relevance and magnitude of international migration and the growing awareness of its importance in the economic, social, cultural or humanitarian debates within the United Nations framework led to the granting of observer status to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) by the General Assembly in 1992 (resolution 47/4), to the inclusion of IOM by the Assembly as a "standing invitee" in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for the coordination of humanitarian assistance the same year, and to the signature of the Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and IOM in 1996. The Assembly, in its resolution 51/148 of 13 December 1996 on cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration, took note with satisfaction of the conclusion of the Agreement; invited the Secretary-General to ensure that the needed cooperation and liaison between the secretariats of the two organizations was undertaken in order to ensure complementary actions; requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of IOM, to foster systematic consultations; and invited the specialized agencies and other organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to cooperate with the Secretary-General and the Director-General of IOM in order to initiate, maintain and increase consultation and programmes with IOM.

2. In resolution 51/148, however, the General Assembly did not establish a systematic and periodic reporting on IOM/United Nations cooperation, a practice in place for several other non-United Nations organizations. The initiative presented in the present explanatory memorandum is meant to fill this gap without adding to the number of reports submitted to the Assembly, as the reports on cooperation with non-United Nations organizations are consolidated into one report.

3. Since the conclusion of the Cooperation Agreement, in fact, the level and range of cooperation between the United Nations system and IOM has increased and diversified, covering both policy and operational levels. Similarly, over the last 12 years, States and other stakeholders have become increasingly aware of the challenges and opportunities presented by international migration. For these reasons, the establishment of a United Nations/IOM reporting mechanism would be useful, timely and constructive.

4. The collaboration of IOM with the United Nations system and its agencies has been further strengthened by the conclusion of memorandums of understanding with several departments, funds, programmes and specialized agencies, and, inter alia, by the membership in the Global Migration Group, a 14-member inter-agency group, meeting at the level of heads of agencies, which aims to promote the wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration, and the provision of more coherent and stronger leadership to improve policy and operational responses. This increasing operational collaboration that has evolved over the past decade and a half between IOM and a broadening range of United Nations entities has resulted in more frequent ad hoc inclusion of IOM in relevant United Nations processes. This has especially been the case in emergency and/or post-conflict rehabilitation situations, but also extends to a number of development-oriented initiatives and partnerships.

5. A score of non-United Nations organizations which have been granted the status of Permanent Observer to the United Nations are part of periodic reporting arrangements in the General Assembly. The areas of cooperation between those reporting organizations and the United Nations system are outlined and described in biennial consolidated reports prepared and submitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General under the title "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations".

6. The draft resolution in annex II contemplates the establishment of a biennial IOM/United Nations reporting mechanism as part of the above-mentioned report, which would recognize the increasing cooperation that already exists between the two organizations while in no way changing the nature of the current institutional relationship.

7. In the light of the above, it would be of particular importance if the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to include in his report on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations a section on cooperation between the United Nations and IOM. Considering the biennialization of the work of the Assembly and the fact that the next report of the Secretary-General will be submitted at the sixty-fifth session of the Assembly, it would be timely that the resolution in annex II be adopted at the sixty-fourth session of the Assembly.

Annex II

Draft resolution

Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/4 of 16 October 1992, by which it granted observer status to the International Organization for Migration and invited that organization to participate in its sessions and work, as well as its resolution 51/148 of 13 December 1996 on cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration,

Noting the desire of both organizations to consolidate and enhance the cooperation existing between them in the economic, social, humanitarian and administrative fields,

Convinced that the further strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations system and the International Organization for Migration contributes to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

1. *Encourages* both the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration to strengthen the cooperation that already exists between the two organizations and further collaborate in matters of common interest;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, as part of the Secretary-General's consolidated report entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations";

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session, under the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations", a sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration".